Canada Alberta

FOREST RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
ENTENTE SUR LA MISE EN VALEUR DES RESSOURCES FORESTIERES

Canada Alberta

The Canada-Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement is a subsidiary agreement of the Canada-Alberta Economic and Regional Development Agreement, which provides coordination and cooperation between the governments of Alberta and Canada in areas of Alberta's economic development.

The Canada-Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement is funded equally by the governments of Canada and Alberta, from April 1, 1984, to March 31, 1989.

Its primary objectives are to ensure the long-term availability of timber supplies; to optimize timber uses; and to contribute to the growth and diversification of Alberta's economy.

The Agreement comprises three programs: Reforestation; Applied research, technology transfer and opportunity identification; and Public information, evaluation and administration. These programs are managed by a joint Directorate and are implemented by Forestry Canada and the Alberta Forest Service.

L'Entente Canada-Alberta sur la mise en valeur des ressources forestières est auxiliaire à l'Entente Canada-Alberta sur le développement économique et régional, qui vise à assurer la coordination et la coopération des deux gouvernements relativement au développement économique de l'Alberta.

L'Entente Canada-Alberta sur la mise en valeur des ressources forestières est financée à parts égales par les gouvernements du Canada et de l'Alberta, et a cours du 1er avril 1984 au 31 mars 1989.

Ses objectifs principaux sont assurer la disponibilité à long terme de réserves de bois; optimiser leur utilisation; et contribuer à la croissance et la diversification de l'économie de la province.

L'Entente comprend trois programmes: Reboisement; Recherche appliquée, transferts de connaissances techniques et relevé des occasions; et Information, évaluation et administration. Ces programmes sont gérés par un Bureau de direction conjoint, et mis en oeuvre par Forêts Canada et le Service forestier de l'Alberta.

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Short Term Technical Assistance

Forestry Department
Alberta Research Council[1]

1990

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DISCLAIMER

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The views, conclusions and recommendations are those of the authors. The exclusion of certain manufactured products does not necessarily imply disapproval nor does the mention of other products necessarily imply endorsement by Forestry Canada or the Alberta Forest Service.

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Summary

Alberta Research Council Forest Products personnel are often asked to answer technical questions or supply technical information based on experience or from library sources. The objective of this project is to provide this technical information service to private industry, government departments, educational institutions, municipal organizations and the general public. Most inquiries can be handled by telephone, some require a literature search, and a few require some limited testing or panel pilot plant work. No charge is made for these services.

During 1989/90, 211 telephone calls and inquiries were handled by the ARC Forest Products Program. This was an increase over last year. This year the system of categorizing calls into subject areas was revised to improve the monitoring of interest areas.

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Acknowledgements

The financial contribution to the Alberta Research Council's Forest Products Research and Development Program from the Alberta Forest Service (Alberta Forestry) and Forestry Canada through the Canada-Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement is greatly appreciated.

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are to undertake the following work regarding short term technical assistance:

a. Provide short term technical assistance to government departments in the area of wood science and technology related to Alberta wood species and wood products.

b. Provide short term technical assistance to industry in the area of wood science and technology related to Alberta wood species and wood products.

c. Provide short term technical assistance to public in the area of wood science and technology related to Alberta wood species and wood products.

d. Provide short term technical assistance to educational institutions in the area of wood science and technology related to Alberta wood species.

e. Provide short term technical assistance to municipal organizations in the area of wood science and technology related to Alberta wood species and wood products.

2. INTRODUCTION

Through previous education, experience, and current research and development projects, the Alberta Research Council's Forest Products Program has built up a large knowledge base in the areas of wood properties, wood products and engineered wood composites. Access to this information can be a factor in the increased utilization of Alberta forest products. By making use easier, substitution is discouraged. Most of the inquiries can be easily handled by telephone; some require literature reviews and written replies; some require limited panel manufacture or testing.

The number of technical inquiries has steadily increased over the last few years as the public and industry awareness of the presence of the ARC Forest Products Program has grown. Tracking information request calls is a valuable tool to identify areas of interest for R&D.

3. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Inquiries are normally handled in one of the following methods:

* telephone communication of available information (sometimes this is a referral to another source of information).

- letter communication including available literature (sometimes requiring a computer literature search).
- personal communication on available information.
- quick tests to acquire specific data on a limited scale (for quick comparison purposes).
- manufacture of small demonstration panels.
- quick tests to determine compliance to a standard (not for certification purposes).

This year, to facilitate tracking inquiries and uniformity of reporting among the forest products staff, a grouping system was established. Six categories were used:

- structural panel information
- solid wood products information
- wood preservation information
- building systems information
- waveboard information
- miscellaneous information

Inquiries were also broken down by sector as follows:

- Government departments
- Private Industry
- Public
- Educational Institutions
- Municipal Organizations

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During 1989/90 the Forest Products Program logged 211 telephone inquiries covering a broad range of questions. The breakdown by categories and sectors is as follows:

Structural panel information	23%
Solid wood products information	15%
Wood preservation information	7%
Building systems information	12%
Waveboard information	14%
Miscellaneous information	29%

Breakdown by sector:

Government Departments	12%
Private Industry	58%
Public	15%
Educational Institutions	13%
Municipal Organizations	2%

Seventeen of these inquiries required laboratory work or an in-depth response. The variety of these inquiries was great. As well as the normal questions on strength properties, lab work included a range from steam explosion to ash content. A list of the seventeen laboratory inquiries is presented in Appendix A.

The number of inquiries increased through the year. One factor contributing to this was the creation in early 1990 of the Alberta Research Council Technology Line. This toll free information service is actively promoted throughout Alberta. The service provides a one stop clearing house for questions from industry and the public. Forest Products inquiries are channelled by the information line operator to an appropriate ARC employee. This initiative by ARC shows a commitment to technology transfer through a system similar to that funded at ARC Forest Products by the Canada-Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the Alberta forest products sector develops, and as public awareness of the ARC Forest Products Program grows, there is an increasing demand for information on wood properties, wood products and engineered wood composites. The personnel of the Forest Products program provide a valuable service in technology transfer through the Short Term Technical Assistance project.

Current objectives of the Alberta Research Council mirror those established over the years that this project has been funded by the Canada-Alberta Forest Resources Development Agreement. For this reason, it is recommended that this project be continued in 1990/91 with joint funding by the Alberta Research Council

Appendix A

Inquiries Requiring Laboratory Work

Inquiries Requiring Laboratory Work

Company	Description
Marathon Coatings Technology Ltd.	test panels for specialty applications
Weldwood Slave Lake	OSB properties
Weldwood Hinton	lumber properties
Hawkwood Industries	performance of panels
SMED	adhesives
General Systems Research	steam explosion
Stewart and Ewing	wood ash
Weldwood	specialty papers
Blue Ridge Lumber	surface properties
Western Archrib	specialty products
Reichhold Chemical	moisture meter calibration
Superior Sash	door panel construction
Jasper Millwork	shear testing
Ronden & Associates	wood/plastic composites
Municipal Affairs	building systems
Vision Smart	panel properties
CCMC	review of standards